



USS Ashland (LSD 48)

To the Beach, and Beyond!

USS Ashland is the eighth and last of the Whidbey Island class ships to be commissioned, and the second U.S. Navy ship to bear the Ashland name. The first was the USS Ashland (LSD 1) which was commissioned on June 22nd, 1942.

Ashland's keel was laid on April 4th, 1989 at New Orleans, La., by Avondale Industries Incorporated. Its launching and christening took place on Nov. 11th, 1989 with Mrs. Kathleen Foley, wife of Adm. S. R. Foley, Jr. (Ret.), as ship's sponsor. She was commissioned on May 9th, 1992 in New Orleans, La.

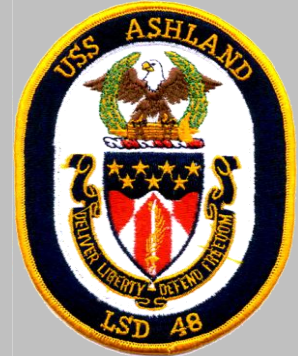
USS Ashland (LSD 48) is an amphibious warfare ship designed to transport Marines and their combat gear throughout the world and then to launch and support assault landing craft and helicopters during amphibious operations against hostile shores. Ashland can accommodate up to four Landing Craft Air Cushion vehicles maintaining other conventional landing craft, as well as Marine tanks, trucks, & artillery. LCACs are assault landing hovercrafts, able to transport the embarked Marine vehicles to shore quickly. Coupled with the ability to handle naval helicopter landings, Ashland is extremely capable in spearheading an amphibious assault against a wide range of beaches which were not operationally feasible before.

Officially designated as a Landing Ship, Docking, or LSD, Ashland accomplishes her mission throughout the use of a well deck which is flooded to recover and launch landing craft. After leaving the ship, Ashland continues to support the assault craft through its advanced communications capabilities & operations personnel.

A 440-ft well deck, a flight deck able to land and launch CH-53E helicopters, the Navy's latest diesel propulsion and engineering technology, advanced communication and combat systems, 20- and 60-ton cranes, expanded repair facilities, complete medical and dental facilities, and troop berthing accommodations for embarked Marines combine to place USS Ashland on the leading edge of amphibious warfare in the 21st century.

USS Ashland (LSD 48) Facts

Ship's Crest:



Ship's Command:

Commanding Officer: Cmdr. Jeffrey Ward, USN
Executive Officer: Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Atkinson, USN
CMC: CMDCM (SW/AW) Jim Jones

Ship's Motto

"Deliver Liberty, Defend Freedom"

Ship's Facts and Figures:

Homeport:	Little Creek, Va.
Keel Laid:	April 4, 1988
Christened:	November 11, 1989
Commissioned:	May 9, 1992
Length:	610 ft
Beam:	84 ft
Displacement:	11,149 tons
Speed:	20+ knots

